

Valentine's Day cult clash: Police arrest 2 suspects

●As death toll hits 10

By Egufe Yafugborhi

PORT HARCOURT—POLICE in Rivers State have confirmed two suspects arrested over Tuesday, Valentine's Day killings in a gun battle provoked by divisions in the Greenland cult gang in Ikata, Upata Kingdom of Ahoada East Local Government Area of the state.

Spokesperson, Rivers State Police Command, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the arrest of the two suspects as death toll in the cult violence rose to 10, with 55-year-old Odozi Okechukwu, a passersby caught in the gang violence the latest to have died.

Caleb Ekpelinwe, nephew to Okechukwu said: "My uncle died Wednesday night. He was caught by bullet while the cultists were exchanging gunfire while he was buying something and interfacing with the seller. He wasn't one them.

"The injuries he sustained from that shooting that day he was rushed to Ahoada General Hospital were severe. On their way to Port Harcourt, he died and was brought back for burial.

"With my uncle's death, added to the nine that died that day, 10 lives have been lost now with the initial nine buried, but my uncle is yet to be buried."

Police spokesperson, Grace Iringe-Koko who confirmed the arrest of two suspects said the command was yet to get report of the latest death from the tragedy.

It would be recalled that at 10.30p.m., on this year's St Valentine's Day, supremacy tussle between two leaders of the Greenland cult in the area, simply identified as VIP and Ebuka, led to the shooting, which has claimed 10 lives.